

~~SECRET~~

15 March 1966

OCI No. 0864/66

Copy No. 23



INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

REVIEW OF INSURGENCY PROBLEMS

This publication provides a periodic review of internal security in underdeveloped countries where there is a threat from Communist-supported insurgency.

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Office of Current Intelligence

~~SECRET~~

NND 011188
Box 296
DOC: #542
Page 1 of 7



~~SECRET~~

REVIEW OF INSURGENCY PROBLEMS

This publication provides a periodic review of internal security in underdeveloped countries where there is a threat from Communist-supported insurgency.

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Thailand.	1
Argentina	2
Brazil.	2
Venezuela	3
Guatemala	3

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

OCI No. 0864/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
15 March 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Review of Insurgency Problems

1. Thailand

Insurgents are becoming bolder in the north-eastern province of Nakhon Phanom. In two separate instances during the first week of March, large groups of armed men entered villages and summoned the people to hear long harangues against the Thai Government and the US. The two incidents, which occurred on 1 and 6 March, involved groups of 20 to 40 armed Communists.

During the same period terrorists in Nakhon Phanom assassinated a provincial policeman and attacked five civilians, killing one and wounding another.

A petition from the people of a remote village in Kalasin Province underscores the lack of security in the countryside. The petition asked the government to continue police suppression operations and to establish a police substation in the area. According to the report, the terrorists, whom the villagers identify as Communists, seem to be more interested in banditry than ideology. The villagers state that the Communists steal money and cattle and then kill anyone who goes to the police.

The clandestine Voice of the Thai People is reaching a wide audience among university students in Bangkok, Interest in the broadcasts began late last year and has been on the increase. Although the students reportedly tend to discount much of the Voice's content as Communist propaganda, attacks on the Thanom government's

~~SECRET~~

NND 011188
Box 296
DOC: #542
Page 4 of 7

~~SECRET~~

[redacted]

corruption and, to a lesser extent, charges that the government is subservient to US interests, have received a sympathetic hearing. Government corruption and US "imperialism," themes which the Communists are hitting hardest, were highlighted again in a recent broadcast which marked the Voice's fourth anniversary.

The Communists, who evidently are trying to increase their influence with young people, have formed the League of Patriotic Youth of Thailand under the leadership of the Thai Patriotic Front. The communiqué announcing the new front claimed that there had been a drop in morality among the youth since US troops arrived in Thailand.

[redacted]

2. Argentina

An article in a Buenos Aires evening newspaper on 7 March reporting that three truck-loads of Czech arms had been brought from Bolivia into Salta Province, Argentina, has been denied by the chief of the gendarmerie. He said this was only a rumor started by a newspaper reporter in Salta, and that further steps are being taken to investigate his motivation.

[redacted]

3. Brazil

The army has uncovered an extreme leftist plot to launch terrorist and sabotage attacks in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul. The ultimate objective of the plot reportedly was to install ultranationalist leader Leonel Brizola, now exiled in Montevideo, as governor of the state. Brizola then would have attempted to set up a "government" in opposition to President Castello Branco.

[redacted] eight officers of the state military police were involved in the scheme, which included plans to assassinate the incumbent governor and two high-ranking military leaders sometime this month. The conspirators also planned to disrupt telephone and radio communications and transportation services and attack some military garrisons. The army has arrested the eight officers.

[redacted]

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Local leaders have tended to discredit the plot although an army investigation team has been organized to look into the extent of it.

The threat of a Brizola-inspired movement in Rio Grande do Sul cannot be totally discounted. Brizola was governor of the state several years ago and still has some following there. He has long been seeking arms and funds to launch a terrorist campaign in southern Brazil and is confident of enlisting support from students and workers, among whom there is strong dissatisfaction with Castello Branco's policies. The chances that there will be any large-scale guerrilla operation appear limited, but there is a growing possibility of isolated terrorist incidents.

4. Venezuela

Public attention has continued to focus on charges that Alberto Lovera, former leader of the Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV) and of the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN), was murdered by the General Directorate of Police (DIGEPOL). Far-leftist Deputy Jose Vicente Rangel has spearheaded the attack in Congress on the government, and heavy press coverage continues. Because of the congressional investigation of DIGEPOL, it is possible that there will be some changes in that organization.

Lovera was arrested in October 1965, but the government has consistently denied it ever held him in custody and has suggested that he was a victim of dissension within the PCV. His chained and weighted body was washed ashore on a beach in eastern Venezuela.

5. Guatemala

Guatemalan security forces have deeply curtailed the capabilities of the subversive movements by numerous arrests of highly placed leaders of the guerrilla organizations in the past several weeks. At least four have been executed. Stepped-up raids and searches in the urban areas have led to other arrests and have continued to keep the opposition off balance. In addition to reducing the capability

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

of the opposition for action, security forces activities over the past several weeks may well have sapped the will to fight of at least some of the marginal terrorists and guerrillas. At the same time, the punishment dealt to the subversive forces may cause them to react with some fresh act or acts of violence to give public evidence that they can still perform effectively, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~